



SAINT LOUIS BIRD CLUB

BULLETIN

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JAN.-FEB., 1944

IN MEMORIAM

Lillie R. Ernst, a name to revere and to love, lives now in memory. On Dec. 6th, 1943, the St. Louis Bird Club suffered its greatest loss, the loss of Miss L. R. Ernst, Board Member Emeritus, Guiding Light, Club Counselor. So much could be written: that Miss Ernst was a nationally known educator; civic leader; an unusual woman; penetrating analyst; colorful personality; an inspiration to young and old. But all that would be too material we're certain, were Miss Ernst telling us how to write this memorial. We think she'd rather want us to say simply: friend of ours, and friend of birds. We think she'd rather say: "Careful, boy. You have to be sure about things in this world. Sure of yourself. Sure of your birds!"



Miss L. R. Ernst

REDBIRDS

Redbirds, redbirds,
Long and long ago,
What a honey-call you had
In hills I used to know!
Redbud, buckberry,
Wild plum-tree
And proud river sweeping
Southward to the sea,
Brown and gold in the sun
Sparkling far below,
Trailing stately round her bluffs
Where the poplars grow—
Redbirds, redbirds,
Are you singing still
As you sang one May day
On Saxton's Hill?

—Sara Teasdale

Yes, Sara Teasdale, Redbirds still sing on Saxton's Hill, sing for others as they did for you and Miss Ernst that May day. We agree. A day of birding with L. R. Ernst was a day for poetry . . . for song rich as Redbirds'!

REMAINING LECTURES OF THE CLUB'S 1943-'44 SCHEDULE

Wednesday, Feb. 2nd

Howard Cleaves of Staten Island, New York. "Nature at Midnight" . . . featuring motion pictures of wildlife at night. FREE. Open to the public. St. Louis University Auditorium. 8 P.M.

Monday, March 27th

Alfred M. Bailey of the Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, Colo. "The Four Corners" . . . all-color motion pictures. FREE. Open to the public. Soldan High School. 8 P.M.

Thursday, April 27th

Cleveland P. Grant of Jaffrey, New Hampshire. "From Marsh to Mountain" . . . all-color motion pictures. BIRD CLUB LOYALTY NIGHT. Admission fifty cents. Open to the public. Soldan High School. 8 P.M.

Tuesday, May 16th

Edna Maslowski of Cincinnati, Ohio. "Yellowstone Romance" . . . all-color motion pictures. FREE. Open to the public. Soldan High School. 8 P.M.



THE BIRTH OF THE LAND

Nine hundred people came to hear John H. Storer at the St. Louis University Auditorium on January 6th. Their reward for coming was another magnificent John H. Storer film. For the third straight year Mr. Storer amazed a Bird Club audience with his remarkable slow motion pictures. This film was a sort of symphony in shadows, reflections, swamp moss, profuse flowers, and the rhythm of water, the kind of nature symphony that is produced only by a rich Southern wilderness. Applause was spontaneous as John H. Storer's flowers opened on the screen, an Osprey dove for a fish, a polyphemus moth emerged from its cocoon. Behind it all was a sound conservation message: Soil, billions of tons of it, washing away to the sea each year; erosion, enemy of man and of soil; conservation carelessness; these were problems pictured by John H. Storer. Great conservation battles lie ahead and it was well that the St. Louis Bird Club stop in its tracks and ponder very seriously this subject . . . not only the birth of the land but the survival of the land.

We are proud to state that the St. Louis Bird Club now has the largest membership in its history. It has grown from approximately 110 members in 1940 to over 600 today. In fact, the membership as of January 1st stands at 618. This progress is particularly gratifying during times when similar organizations have suffered sharp curtailments.

The renewal date for membership in the St. Louis Bird Club has come and gone. With this reminder we again stress the importance of our wholehearted support of the new Branch Plan. As the first unit given the opportunity to affiliate with the National Audubon Society, we are naturally eager to make a good showing. Under the Branch Plan, the status of Active Members paying one dollar will be unchanged. Sustaining Members paying five dollars automatically will become members of the National Audubon Society and will receive Audubon Magazine. Through Sustaining memberships we will lend much needed support to nation-wide programs for bird protection and legislation sponsored by the National Audubon Society. For an additional fifty cents per year, Bird Club members may join the Audubon Society of Missouri and receive its publication, the Bluebird. Dues should be sent to the Club Secretary, Ethel Wolfe, 1607 Continental Building, or to the Treasurer, Anne Bayha, 5742 Page Blvd.

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NATURE AT MIDNIGHT

Howard Cleaves, the "human chandelier" from Staten Island, New York, will present an amazing motion picture of nature at midnight on Wednesday, February 2nd, 8:00 P.M., at the St. Louis University Auditorium. This unique record of wildlife has put the lecturer in a class by himself. Heretofore all night pictures of animals and birds have been flash-light stills . . . but that was all B.C. (Before Cleaves)! Experimenter Cleaves worked out a new photographic technique by which he is able to take moving pictures of the mysterious doings in animal land during nature's own blackouts. That this is one of the most unusual and interesting programs ever offered to St. Louis nature lovers, you will attest when you see spectacular shots of flying squirrels, alligators, water turkey and limpkin; intimate studies of bird roosts, a night spider, bear, and herons . . . all collected by Mr. Cleaves during his nocturnal wanderings across waterways by canoe and along back country roads in his quest for tell-tale gleaming eyes. Don't miss "Nature at Midnight" on February 2nd.

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Observations



Each year for the past six we've been compiling a list of "The Birds of the Year", the best observations of the year ranked according to their "bestness". This is a difficult job. It takes a great deal of time, requires a minute comparison of observations of the past decade, and a careful study of earlier records from Widmann and Bennett. This year's compilation had new problems. The war has affected the scale of our birding. Normally dependable "birders" had nothing to report or were too busy to keep a list. "The Birds of the Year" therefore have been determined from a much smaller set of lists than usual, and because we do not know about them, some good observations may have been omitted. We regret particularly not to have lists this year from the Pere Marquette area where such excellent bird students as Father Link, David Dale, O.C. K. Hutchinson and others hold sway. We miss too reports from our members in the service, James Earl Comfort and Dr. Arnold Zempel to mention a couple. And our greatest regret is that no more will the name of L. R. Ernst add the surety and certainty to our observations that was so characteristic of her study. Even with our limited work this year, we're inclined to believe that the season was not up to average. This was an exceptionally poor shorebird year for instance. But, nevertheless, the list is impressive, and there isn't one of us who doesn't envy those who saw "The Birds of '43":

1. European Widgeon: One at Marais Temps Clair, St. Charles Co., Mo.; April 25th; James W. Cunningham.

2. American Raven: One at Harbor Point Village, St. Charles Co., Mo.; Jan. 17th; Alberta Bolinger, Helen Einspanier, Hattie Ettinger, Cecilia Lehmann.

3. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Two at Creve Coeur Lake, Mo.; Aug. 14th; Jimmy Jackson.

4. Yellow Rail: One at Peruque, Mo.; April 4th; Alberta Bolinger, Helen Einspanier, Cecilia Lehmann.

5. Western Willet: One at Creve Coeur Lake, Mo.; May 16th; Alberta Bolinger, Helen Einspanier, Hattie Ettinger, Cecilia Lehmann.

6. White-rumped Sandpiper: Creve Coeur Lake, Mo.; Sept. 7th; Edward Behr and Martin Rust.

7. Harris' Sparrow: One at Jefferson Bar-

racks, Mo.; April 15th; James W. Cunningham.

8. Snowy Egret: One at Peruque, Mo.; May 8th; Jimmy Jackson and Ken Niewoehner.

9. Western Meadowlark: One at Peruque, Mo.; March 20th; Beulah Bedell, Cecilia Lehmann, Helen O'Moran, Mary Sue Patton, Mrs. Jos. E. Vollmar, Wayne Short.

10. Franklin's Gull: One at St. Charles Co., Mo.; Nov. 21st; James W. Cunningham, Harry Comfort, Mrs. Arnold Zempel, Mrs. H. R. Grummann. One at Horse Shoe Lake, Ill.; Nov. 20th; Beulah Bedell, Mrs. Gertrude Drury, Helen Einspanier, Hattie Ettinger, Frances Pickel, Mrs. Jos. E. Vollmar, Ethel Wolfe, Wayne Short.

11. Greater Scaup: Two at Harbor Point Village, St. Charles Co., Mo.; January 1st; Alberta Bolinger, Mrs. Gertrude Drury, Helen Einspanier, Edwin Gilcher, S. B. Heckler, Helen O'Moran, Mildred Reese, Wayne Short.

THE KUBICHEK LECTURE

On the evening of Dec. 2nd at Soldan High School, Mr. Leonard Hall introduced W. F. Kubichek of the Wildlife Service to an audience of approximately 800 St. Louis Bird Club members and friends. This enthusiastic group saw details of work of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Elk control on the great range at Jackson Hole, Wyoming as Mr. Kubichek explained the need and wisdom for such management. Certainly, Mr. Kubichek's study of the life history of the salmon was a revealing insight into a little known phase of conservation work. For the bird enthusiasts, there were colorful views of herons, hawks, Lark Buntings, California Gulls, and once again the show-stopping scene of the Western Grebe "walking" on water.

This bulletin is betwixt and between with regard to the Club's Annual Meeting at the Washington University Medical School Auditorium, on January 19th. We cannot announce the meeting or give a resume of it as the Bulletin will be at the press when the meeting takes place.

The St. Louis Bird Club had a nation-wide "plug" on the radio after the Gerard Darrow Children's Bird Day Program. Announcement was made on the Quiz Kid network broadcast that Gerard had appeared before 3,600 children in a program in St. Louis presented by the St. Louis Bird Club.



Who's Who?



Changing conditions have again affected your editorial staff. Don Menke, who so capably edited the Bulletin for the past year, has been commissioned an Ensign in the U. S. Navy. January 15th, Don started his indoctrination at Arizona University, Tucson, Arizona. It is always difficult to lose invaluable Club members, but we are proud to yield to the Navy. His enthusiasm for and conscientious efforts in behalf of the St. Louis Bird Club were reflected in every issue of the Bulletin. Our sincere congratulations on a splendid job, and best wishes on his new big undertaking.

Hats off to James W. Cunningham who is the "Birder of the Year". This was to be expected. Mr. Cunningham has always been one of Missouri's leading observers. He is the Audubon Magazine's Seasons reporter for Missouri. He came to us from Kansas City only a year or so ago and "old-timers" knew immediately that here was a bird student who would probably outdistance all observers. But the running was close and Mr. Cunningham's 206 species observed during 1943 surpassed only by one Jimmy Jackson's 205 with Edward Behr next in line at 204. That's the closest finale since 1938 when Miss L. R. Ernst and Wayne Short tied at 216. Incidentally this was the lowest winning figure in years compared with Miss Ernst's all-time high of 231 in 1939, James Earl Comfort's 220 in 1941 and 214 in 1940, and Wayne Short's 213 in 1942. This year's figure was probably lower due to the poor shorebird migration and most of all to those two important elements, time and gasoline. Among the other bird lists submitted for 1943, these followed the first three: Ken Niewoehner, 192; Helen Einspanier, 191; Hattie Ettinger, 178; Wayne Short, 176; Don Menke, 171.

Ethel Heuser is now a member of the Contact Committee handling newspaper and radio contact. Billie McCord, replacing Louis Soto, is responsible for our national contact mailing list work.

The pupils of Room One, Buder School, wrote a letter of appreciation to the Club for the Children's Bird Day Program. They stated that Mr. Harwell's bird imitations were so good that they thought the birds themselves might have been singing. They were sure that he was doing it when, as they put it,

"he whistled like a blackbird and the blackbird did not spread out its tail."

New Sustaining Members since November: Delia B. Ayars, Hilda Bartels, Randall Foster, Allen W. McLaughlin, Mrs. B. L. Sterbenz, L. F. Turnbull, Kurt P. Wesseling, Jr. Changed from Active to Sustaining: John D. Battenberg, Bill Kelley, John C. McGuire, and Mrs. W. Barry Wood, Jr. Sterling P. Jones, an Honorary Member, has also become a Sustaining Member.

New Active Members since November: Inez Bacon, Katy May Blattner, J. F. Bredehoeft, Mrs. J. F. Bredehoeft, G. G. Burgard, Mrs. G. G. Burgard, Mrs. H. L. Chase, Mrs. C. Leslie Cox, Mrs. Owen Crawford, Dorothy Dean, Phil Emerick, Dorothy Erbe, Ruth C. Erman, Ada Flitcraft, Mrs. R. L. Freer, Julia Haggerty, Josephine Kelleher, Virginia Kelley, E. A. Kerby, Mrs. E. A. Kerbey, Barbara Kerbey, Ruth A. Lienesch, Effie E. McKee, Mrs. A. F. Rossi, M. Siebenman, Coy Skiles, Rose Soto, Arthur F. Strehle, Mrs. Arthur F. Strehle, Edward F. Tremaine, Mrs. M. Vieth, May Weldon, and Viola Wulf.

We want to thank J. G. Princell, who has been the "man behind the projector" at our lectures, for a job always well done.

Mrs. Pearl Brouwer and Albert Berkowitz, members of the Club who now live in Milwaukee and Des Moines respectively, are doing big things for Audubon work in their cities. Milwaukee is drawing an attendance of 800 to its new lecture series and Des Moines 500, with prospects of both going to 1000 before the year is up. Milwaukee and Des Moines are participating in the Audubon Wildlife Screen Tours program under the auspices of the National Audubon Society. Mrs. Brouwer and Mr. Berkowitz are key boosters in their respective cities.

Mildred Reese has capably filled the board vacancy left by Mr. Berkowitz when he moved to Des Moines, having been appointed by the Board of Directors to complete Mr. Berkowitz's term.

Marian Freer now heads the Door Committee. She is ably assisted by Mrs. Drury, Anne Bayha, Billie McCord, and Ethel Heuser.